officers to work on Indian ships in view of acute shortage of Indian officers. In order to overcome the shortage, the Government is considering a proposal to allow foreign officers to work on Indian ships subject to certain conditions.

Data transmission by satellites

385. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of satellites launched on 10th January, 2007 and functions assigned to each of them;

(b) the details in respect of data/pictures etc. transmitted by them, so far; and

(c) the details of fields where the data would be utilised or is proposed to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C7) launched on 10th January, 2007, carried 4 satellites *viz.,* (i) CARTOSAT-2 for Cartography (ii) Space Capsule Recovery Experiment (SRE) to demonstrate our capability to recover an orbiting capsule safely back on earth and also for conducting long duration micro gravity experiments (iii) LAPAN-TUBSAT— a 55 Kg Video Surveillance Satellite belonging to Indonesia and (iv) NANO-PEHUENSAT-1 of Argentina meant for carrying out amateur radio experiments.

(b) and (c) India's CARTOSAT-2, carrying a Panchromatic camera (PAN) with a resolution of better than 1 m and a swath of 9.6 km. has given satisfactory images over India and other parts of the Globe. CARTOSAT-2 .ta will be useful for detailed large scale mapping applications a will be utilized for various urban and rural infrastructure development purposes as well as for Land Information System (LIS) and Geographical Information System (GIS).

India's Space capsule Recovery Experiment (SRE-I), a 550 kg. capsule, demonstrated the technology for performing experiments in microgravity conditions and bringing them back SRE-1 also provided valuable data during the re-entry and recovery operations.

LAPAN-TUBSAT of Indonesia is an Earth observation satellite and a technology demonstrator for experimental message store and forward system. PEHUENSAT-1 is an Argentinean nanosatellite for amateur radio experiment between colleges and universities of Argentina.

DG Shipping and MMD

386. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to bifurcate the Directorate General of Shipping;

(b) whether it is a fact that it has not been able to modernize and streamline entrenched practices of the Mercantile Marine Department;

(c) the extent to which training, a new attitude and change of work in the Mercantile Marine department has been infused;

(d) the obstacles from vested interest in bringing change; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (e) Government has initiated several steps to modernize and streamline the functioning of the Mercantile Marine Departments which have been reoriented to shift focus from the role of regulator to facilitator. Part of statutory functions has been delegated to the recognized organizations and E-Governance has been introduced to further streamline various statutory functions discharged by Mercantile Marine departments (MMDs). Additional staff has been sanctioned and new regional and district level offices of Mercantile Marine departments have been set up. In addition, the workload generated by the expanding marine training has been reviewed in order to streamline and systematize the work of inspections, approvals, admissions and examinations to ensure transparency, responsibility and the maintenance of the higher standards of quality by technological up-gradations. The Right to Information Act has been implemented in letter and spirit thereby ensuring greater transparency to public. There is a well laid down redressal mechanism which includes on line submission of grievances directly to the Directorate General of Shipping. Besides, Citizen's Charter has been displayed on